CHURCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Christmas Festival

—OF—

The Church of St. Luke,

THE BELOVED PHYSICIAN,

BUSTLETON, PHILA.

A. D., 1881.

ORDER OF SERVICES:

I.

Processional--"Onward Christian Soldiers."--Hymn 232.

II.

General Confession, Absolution, Lords' Prayer and Versicles, and the Tenth Selection of Psalms.

III.

O soft and bright was the starry night, and the fields in glory smiled,
When the joyous song of the angel throng, give thanks for the King-
ly child,
And peace and love from the realms above, came down as a gift
sublime,
To the wondering earth, in the joy and mirth, of the new, sweet
Christmas time.
The stars are bright and our hearts are light, for glad is the Christ-
mas time.
For glad is the Christmas time.

O soft and bright is the starry night, above the fields of snow;
As when the song of the angel throng brought joy to the world below;
Still peace and love from the realms above came down as a gift sublime,
Still laughs the earth in the joy and mirth of the dear old Christmas
time.
The earth is bright and our hearts are light, for glad is the Christ-
For glad is the Christmas time. [mas time,

O still the night shall awake delight, when earth her King shall know,
And the voice of praise through the future days, shall sweeter and
sweeter grow. [time,
No heart so cold, when the tale is told, but shall welcome the joyous
And join the song of the heavenly throng, when the bells of Christ-
mas chime.
The earth is bright and our hearts are light, when the bells of Christ-
When the bells of Christmas chime. [mas chime,

IV.

Lesson:--St. Matthew, Chapter ii.

V.

Good tidings ! good tidings ! that come from afar ;
While faith in our hearts like a bright beaming star
Shines forth in its splendor and beauty arrayed,
To guide where the babe in the manger was laid.

CHORUS.—Hosanna, hosanna, O shout while we sing,—
The babe in the manger is Jesus our King ;
Hosanna, hosanna. He comes from above,
His sceptre is mercy, his banner is love.

Good tidings ! good tidings ! the east and the west,
The north and the south thro' His coming are blest,
The gift of salvation He freely bestows,
And maketh the desert to bloom as the rose.

CHORUS.—Hosanna, hosanna, etc.

Good tidings ! good tidings of rapture untold
Now burst from the lips of the young and the old ;
Thro' Him who forever our Ruler shall be
Our bondage is broken, the captive is free.

CHORUS.—Hosanna, hosanna, etc.

O Saviour, dear Saviour, to-day we recall
The story so sweet and so precious to all,
We hail with rejoicing the sunlight of peace
That rose on thy cradle and never shall cease.

CHORUS.—Hosanna, hosanna, etc.

VI.

Creed and Prayers.

VII.

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold :
Peace on the earth, good will to men from Heaven's all-gracious king
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurl'd;
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world :
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

O ye beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow !
Look now, for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing :
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretol'd,
When the new heaven and earth shall own the Prince of Peace, their King,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

AMEN.

VIII.

ADDRESS.

IX.

Ring, ring out the merry, merry bells,
For the merry Christmas time.
Joy, oh joy, the chorus swells ;
Let us echo all the chimes.

CHORUS.—Ring, ring, ring, ring, ring the merry bells,—
Joy, joy, joy how the chorus swells,
Peace on earth we love to sing,
So for us the merry bells shall ring.

We will sing our songs of love,
All the merry Christmas time.
Joy and peace our love shall prove,
While we echo evening chimes.

We are here with faces bright,
Welcome to our Christmas time.
All are happy here to-night,
While we echo Christmas chimes.

X.

Presentation of Gifts.